AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s) (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

At page 3, line 2, please replace the paragraph with the following.

Fig. 9 is a perspective side view of a chisel, in which the insert shows an expanded end view of the tip.

At page 3, between lines 7 and 8, please insert the following paragraph.

Fig. 14A is an expanded, fragmentary perspective side view of an alternative embodiment of the tip of the screw of Fig. 14.

At page 7, lines 22-31, please replace the paragraph with the following.

For the performance of some embodiments of the immobilization procedures, a tool set for the procedure generally comprises a guide component and an immobilization element, optionally along with a cutting element, a cannula and/or a drill bit as well as any other appropriate tools. A kit comprising the collection of tools along with appropriate labels in a container is shown schematically in Fig. 4. Specifically, kit 120, as shown in Fig.4, comprises a guide component 122, a cannula 124, an immobilization element 126, a cutter/drill bit 128 and instructions 130 with appropriate warnings [[130]] within container 132. Various other optional components can be included with the kit to facilitate access to the immobilization point, preparation of the immobilization site and/or delivery of the immobilization element.

At page 8, lines 11 to 24, please replace the paragraph with the following.

~~Cannila~~ Cannula 104 forms a passageway for performing the procedure. Referring to Fig. 6, cannula 104 generally includes a central passage 150, a distal end 152 and a proximal end 154. Central passage 150 provides a space for the introduction of appropriate tools to complete the procedure while the walls of the cannula provide protection for the surrounding tissue. The cannula or its distal end can be tapered, and it is the distal end of the cannula that is inserted into the body. The cannula can come in a variety of lengths and exterior and interior surface diameters, dependent on the needs of the devices used for the procedure. The cannula generally has an outer diameter of no more than about 2.5 centimeters (cm), and the wall of the cannula can be as thin as suitable with the device having the desired mechanical strength. The cannula has a sufficient length to reach the SI joint and extend outward from the patient. The cannula can have a circular cross section, oval cross section, rectangular cross section or other desired shape that provides the desired channel. The cross sectional shape and size can vary over the length of the cannula.

At page 9, line 21 to page 10, line 14, please replace the paragraph with the following.

One or more tools can be used to prepare the SI joint for the placement of the immobilization element. Appropriate preparation tools include, for example, cutters, drills/drill bits, chisels, ~~scrappers~~ scrapers or the like. Preparation of the joint can involve opening the joint for the placement of the immobilization element and/or preparation of the bone surface for healing following immobilization. Cutters generally comprise a blade or the like and can be connected to a motorized drive that moves the blade back and forth. Referring to an example embodiment in Fig. 8, cutter 170 has a cutting edge 172 on blade 174 and a chuck 176 for connection to a handle or motorized cutting drive. Cutting edge 172 and blade 174 can be configured for cutting bone. Referring to Fig. 9, a chisel 180 generally has a shaft 182, a chisel

edge 184 (shown in an end view in the insert), and a contact surface 186. A mallet or the like of the like can be used to hammer on the contact surface to cut with the chisel. An example of a ~~scrapper~~ scraper 200 is shown in Fig. 10. ~~Scrapper~~ Scraper 200 has a shaft 202, a ~~scrapping~~ scraping surface 204 with sharp protrusions 206 and a handle or chuck 208 for attachment to a handle or the like. Generally, cutting blades, drill bits, chisels and scrapers are formed from suitable metals, such as stainless steel and titanium, although some other hard materials can be used. The cutting elements (e.g., blades, drill bits, chisels or scrapers ~~scrappers~~) [[has]] have an appropriate dimension to prepare the joint for placement of the immobilization element. For less invasive procedures, the elements have a suitable dimension for use through the cannula. In these embodiments, the diameters of the elements are generally no more than about 2 cm. A drill guide or cutting guide can be used to guide the preparation process. The drill guide/cutting guide generally comprises a positioning element that orients the drill guide for appropriate placement to guide the drilling/cutting. The drill guide/cutting guide generally further comprises a guide element that guides the drill bit/ cutting blade with the guide in appropriate position.